

I CLAIM:

1. A member for guiding and supporting at least one elongated flexible member, said guiding and supporting member comprising first and second side faces; at least one aperture extending between said first and second side faces, said aperture being defined by an inner circumferential surface extending between said faces and forming a passageway for receiving the at least one elongated flexible member within the guiding and supporting member, said inner circumferential surface being convexly curved in a direction of the center of the aperture; and at least one elongated foot extending along a first portion of an outer sidewall for orienting and positioning the member on a structure.

2. The guiding and supporting member of claim 1 further comprising a hinge that permits a first portion of the guiding and supporting member to flex relative to a second portion of the guiding and supporting member.

3. The guiding and supporting member of claim 2 wherein said hinge is formed in a second outer sidewall portion of said guiding and supporting member.

4. The guiding and supporting member of claim 2 wherein said outer sidewall includes an opening that extends into said aperture, said opening being defined by two opposing surfaces that separate when said guiding and supporting member is flexed at said hinge.

5. The guiding and supporting member of claim 1 wherein said at least one elongated foot comprises a first foot, and said guiding and supporting member further comprises a second foot, each said foot extending along a portion of said outer sidewall so that the guiding and supporting member can be positioned on the structure in at least one of at least two orientations.

6. The guiding and supporting member of claim 5 where the portion of said outer sidewall including said first foot extends at an angle to the portion of said outer sidewall including said second foot.

7. The guiding and supporting member of claim 5 wherein each said foot includes a passageway for receiving an elongated fastening member that is capable of securely retaining the guiding and supporting member on the structure.

8. The guiding and supporting member of claim 1 wherein the at least one aperture includes at least two apertures.

9. The guiding and supporting member of claim 8 wherein said at least two apertures include three apertures.

10. The guiding and supporting member of claim 8 wherein said at least two apertures include four apertures.

11. The guiding and supporting member of claim 1 further including a sweep for securing within said aperture for maintaining the flexible member at a predetermined radius.

12. The guiding and supporting member of claim 11 wherein said sweep comprises at least one end having a collar, and said collar includes a portion securely retained within said aperture.

13. The guiding and supporting member of claim 12 wherein said portion of said collar includes a seat, and said collar further includes a first circumferential flange and a second circumferential flange positioned on opposite sides of said seat.

14. The guiding and supporting member of claim 13 wherein the convexly curved surface is positioned between said first and second circumferential flanges when the at least one end is retained within the aperture.

15. The guiding and supporting member of claim 11 wherein said sweep further comprises a central passageway for receiving the elongated flexible member, said passageway including at least one inner surface for supporting the elongated flexible member when positioned within the sweep.

16. The guiding and supporting member of claim 11 wherein said sweep is curved so that it has a first radius along a first side and a second radius along the second side, said second radius being greater than said first radius.

17. The guiding and supporting member of claim 11 wherein said sweep further comprises a cradle having a collar positioned between first and second terminal ends of the cradle.

18. A guiding and supporting member for maintaining a flexible member at a predetermined minimum bend radius, said member comprising an elongated body having first and second ends, the first end including a collar comprising a first circumferential flange, a second circumferential flange and a seat extending between said flanges.

19. The guiding and supporting member of claim 18 wherein said flanges and seat are sized for cooperating with an opening in a wiring guide to prevent said guiding and supporting member from moving along the flexible member relative to the wiring guide.

20. The guiding and supporting member of claim 18 further comprising a central passageway for receiving and supporting the elongated flexible member, said passageway including at least one inner surface for supporting the elongated flexible member when positioned within the sweep.

21. The guiding and supporting member of claim 18 wherein said elongated body includes a predetermined curve for maintaining said sweep at a predetermined bend radius.

22. The guiding and supporting member of claim 18 wherein said elongated body is open at said first end and at a second end for receiving the elongated member, said second end including a second collar comprising first and second flanges and a seat extending between the first and second flanges of the second end.

23. The guiding and supporting member of claim 22 further comprising a third collar that is spaced from the first and second ends of said elongated body for providing an attachment position at a location spaced along said elongated body between said first and second ends.

24. The guiding and supporting member of claim 18 wherein said member includes a sweep having at least one roller positioned between said first and second ends.

25. The guiding and supporting member of claim 18 wherein said member includes a plurality of rollers spaced between said first and second ends of the elongated body.

26. The guiding and supporting member of claim 18 comprising a cradle that includes a collar spaced from the first and second ends of said elongated body for providing a hanger attachment position at a location spaced along said elongated body between said first and second ends.

27. The guiding and supporting member of claim 18 wherein said elongated body is substantially straight such that the predetermined bend radius is about zero.

28. A sweep for being used with a guiding and supporting member to maintain a flexible member at a predetermined radius, said sweep comprising an elongated body including a passageway and first and second ends for being securely retained within an aperture of a respective guide, said first and second ends each including a collar having a first circumferential flange, a second circumferential flange and a seat extending between said flanges for removably receiving a portion of the respective guide.

29. The sweep of claim 28 wherein said elongated body includes a plurality of rollers spaced along its length.

30. The sweep of claim 28 further comprising a third collar spaced from the collars at said first and second ends.

31. A system for guiding and supporting at least one flexible member, said system comprising:

at least one first guiding and supporting member comprising first and second side faces; at least one aperture extending between said first and second side faces, said aperture being defined by an inner surface extending between said faces and forming a passageway for receiving the at least one elongated flexible member, said inner circumferential surface being convexly curved in a direction of the center of the aperture; and at least one elongated foot extending along a first portion of an outer sidewall for orienting and positioning the at least one guiding and supporting member on a structure; and

at least one second guiding and supporting member for maintaining the at least one flexible member at a predetermined minimum bend radius, said at least one second guiding and supporting member comprising an elongated body having first and second ends, the first end including a collar comprising a first circumferential flange, a second circumferential flange and a seat extending between said flanges for receiving the inner circumferential surface of said at least one first guiding and supporting member when said members are secured together.

32. The system of claim 31 further comprising at least one third guiding and supporting member having a collar for receiving one of said at least one first guiding and supporting members at a position spaced from the ends of said at least one third guiding and supporting member.

33. The system of claim 31 wherein said at least one first guiding and supporting member includes a wiring guide and said at least one second guiding and supporting member includes a sweep having a plurality of rollers spaced along its length.

34. A method for guiding and positioning an elongated flexible member along a portion of a building structure, said method comprising the steps of orienting and securing the guiding and supporting member of claim 1 at a location in the building structure; introducing the elongated member into an aperture in the guiding and supporting member and pulling the elongated member through the guiding and supporting member and along a length of the building structure.

35. The method for guiding and positioning an elongated flexible member according to claim 34 further comprising the step of introducing the elongated member into the aperture of the guiding and supporting member by advancing the elongated member through an opening in the sidewall of the guiding and supporting member.

36. The method for guiding and positioning an elongated flexible member according to claim 34 further comprising the step of introducing the elongated member into the aperture of the guiding and supporting member by advancing the elongated member through an opening in a face of the guiding and supporting member.

37. The method for guiding and positioning an elongated flexible member according to claim 34 further including the step of maintaining the elongated member at a predetermined radius.

38. The method for guiding and positioning an elongated flexible member according to claim 37 wherein said maintaining step comprises the steps of positioning the elongated flexible member within a sweep and securing the sweep to the guiding and supporting member.

39. The method for guiding and positioning an elongated flexible member according to claim 38 wherein said step of securing a sweep includes advancing a first end of the sweep having a first outer flange into the aperture so that the first outer flange is positioned on a side of an inner circumferential surface of the aperture that is distal a second end of the sweep.

40. The method for guiding and positioning an elongated flexible member according to claim 37 further including a step of positioning the elongated flexible member in a sweep secured to the guiding and supporting member.

41. A method for guiding and positioning an elongated flexible member around a corner of a building structure, said method comprising the steps of orienting and securing the guiding and supporting member of claim 1 proximate a corner of the building structure; introducing the elongated member into an aperture in the guiding and supporting member and pulling the elongated member around the corner of the building structure.

42. The method for guiding and positioning an elongated flexible member according to claim 41 further including the steps of securing a sweep to said guiding and supporting member and moving said elongated flexible member relative to said sweep.

43. The method for guiding and positioning an elongated flexible member according to claim 42 wherein said sweep is secured to said guiding and supporting member after said flexible member is moved relative to the sweep.

44. The method for guiding and positioning an elongated flexible member according to claim 42 wherein said sweep is secured to said guiding and supporting member before said flexible member is moved relative to the sweep.